M.A.C.C.

DATA LINK

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 August, 1987

The official newsletter of the Modesto Atari Computer Club

NOTE THE CHANGES FOR THIS MONTH'S MEETING!!!

DIFFERENT MEETING PLACE THIS MONTH

DUE TO SUMMER VACATION AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, WE WILL MEET AT:

MODESTO COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER AUDITORIUM

800 EAST MORRIS AVENUE

(JUST EAST OF SUNRISE)

DIFFERENT MEETING DATE THIS MONTH

THURSDAY - AUGUST 13, AT 7:00 PM

I REPEAT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH

LLOYD NICHOLAS TO BE SPEAKER

SUBJECT: DESKTOP PUBLISHING
FOR BOTH 8-BIT AND 16-BIT COMPUTERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to those who attended the July meeting for putting up with the informal gathering that we held on the grass in front of Beyer High instead of in our normal meeting room. It seems that when I signed up to use the room at the high school I had asked for the contract to run for a year. The school district runs on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30, and I was not aware of this.

Please take note that for the month of August we will be meeting at the Modesto Community Service Center Auditorium, 800 E. Morris, at 7PM on THURSDAY the 13th. I repeat THURSDAY, August 13th. The reason for the change is because we couldn't get this room on Wed the 12th, and also the high school wants $16.50 per hour times 3 hours to use the facility at Beyer High during off school time. This figure is above what we wish to budget for a meeting room. We are also considering other locations to call the home of the Modesto Atari Computer Club.

The August meeting will be on the topic of Desktop Publishing. It will be presented by Lloyd Nicholas, who as most of you know has published the MACC DataLink News Letter for almost 4 years. He will cover how it was done with the 8 bit Atari line and how it is handled now with the ST. He plans to cover both lines of software equally. Prepare your questions about desktop publishing, or just page layout in general for the meeting.

Have any of you heard of Img Scan on the ST?. I bought one last week and it works great. It hooks to the printer head (with a fixture of your own design) and scans a picture that is being fed through your printer, and in turn feeds the information to your Monitor. (Either low or high res). It produces a very clear picture with the option of saving the picture in a .RAW data file (64K) or either NEO, or DEGAS. I have downloaded some of these pictures to our BBS under the name of RJIMAGE. This is an ARChived file with several pictures in it. Add an extender of .ARC to the file name and use ARC.TTP to eXtract the pictures.I have also added a public domain viewing program just in case you don't have NEO or DEGAS.

Please, lets all attend this months meeting. You board members have tried very hard to make this meeting of interest to all of you.

See You There--

ROBERT JOHNSTONE, President, M.A.C.C.

BBS REPORT

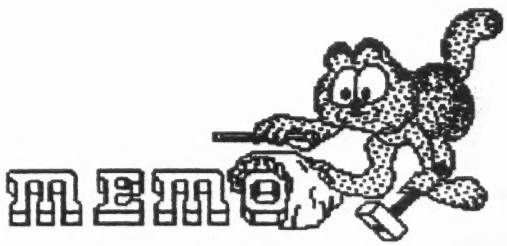
I have changed the upload - download menu of the BBS somewhat. It now has XL-ARCHIVE and ST-ARCHIVE in the language type menu. When you upload an archived file to the board, use these names to define the type of extender that a file will need when downloaded.

I am also in the midst of cleaning up the download section by ARCHIVING related files. For instance, I have archived all the AtariWriter Plus printer drivers into one file named AWDRIVER. It also has a README.DOC file within the archive to help you decided what the files are if you aren't sure.

If anyone would like something on the board, or can't find something, leave me a note in EMAIL or FEEDBACK and I'll do my best to please you..

Thanks, and see ya on the MACC BBS.

--ROBERT JOHNSTONE, Sysop



STablemouse

I recently made the change to a new (and modified) mouse for my 1040 ST. Always mad because Kensington did not come out with a Turbomouse for the ST - I called them, and they said they have no such plans - I decided to do something about it. While paging through the Computer Shopper, I noticed a little ad placed by ZEBRA SYSTEMS, and they were offering a "converted WICO TRACK BALL" for 29.95, that would work with the ST. At that price, I was afraid it would be a piece of junk, only to find out (when it arrived) that it was a very high quality track ball. When I plugged'er in to the ST, it worked fine! "Great," I said to myself. Now I finally have a "sort" of Turbomouse. But the two buttons for the trackball were on the top left side, and the modification Zebra Systems did were to make the extra button - it originally had only one button - right below the factory made button. This button was about 1/4 the size of the unmodified one. Every time I "reached" for one of the buttons, it took time, and sometimes I would brush the trackball with my palm. "No good," I said to myself. Off to Radio Shack. I asked the clerk if they had any micro-switch buttons about the size of a flipper button on a pinball machine. No such luck. I went to 2 local electronic wholesalers, and they also said they didn't "really" carry anything like this. I forgot about it for the next 2 days. Who in the heck would have what I needed - in case you have'nt figured out what I was looking for, I was searching for 2 buttons that I could re-locate on the top of the mouse case, to make it easier to hit the buttons. Having a "brain-storm", trying to think if I had any thing around the house that would work, it finally "clicked". Went to the front door, opened it, and pressed the doorbell. Wha-lal! I quickly went to the local hardware store (I was in such a hurry, I forgot to take a shower) I asked this young kid (I think he was high) where the doorbells were. And I found two buttons that cost me a total of $3.80 . Sped home, and proceeded to take the top cover off the Wico Track Ball. I decided to mount these "doorbell" buttons on the lower right and lower left sides of the track ball. The wireing consisted of screwing two wires to each doorbell. The mounting of the doorbell switch was nothing more than drilling two holes (for the doorbell) and one hole in the middle (for the wires) for each doorbell. Put the cover back on, and plugged the Trackball into slot one, thinking to myself that this would now dominate that slot. The results, it works GREAT!!! The 2 doorbell buttons are raised in such a way that, while resting my hand on the trackball, my thumb and finger rest on the casing of the doorbell buttons, and kind of "suspends" my fingers above the ball, giving me a very great deal of control of just where I want the cursor arrow to go. Very stable. If I was'nt too busy, I would market this myself but anyone can do it, so it's not that great of an idea. Anyway, I left the previous buttons still attached, as I did not have caps to put over the holes that would result if I removed them. Also, I think it works as well (dare I say better?) than the $100.00 Turbomouse. My brother has a MAC with the Turbomouse, and I've used it quite a bit. I can say the this conversion seems to have more stability while rolling the ball. And it's stationary!! No more running in to disks or ashtrays, while trying to pull out of a spin in FSII. And the total cost I incurred was $36.95 !! , plus time involed. One warning. If you do this, open the trackball face up, and watch for the springs that will fly out if you're not carefull. I must admit, I still can't figure out where the springs go, but it works just fine without them. I think they have no function. If anyone does this, let me know if you know where (and what)the springs are supposed to do. Also, if you try this and have any problems, send to the E-mail number below, although you shouldn't, as it is so easy! Or just let me know what you think. It! would be neat to make a good contribution to the network, as I have learned so much from it. Also, here is a list of things I used and needed for this:

1- Wico Trackball (for the ST) from Zebra Systems they charged me $29.95 plus shipping. They said it was backordered, but took no more than 10 days. Phone #1-800-235-2330 Total cost--------$32.95

2- Doorbell buttons, Part #126 oblong push button, 2-3/4" x 3/4" (they are not that big) Made by Eagle Electric Mfg.Co. INC., Long Island, N.Y. 11101 (or just go to the hardware store, and see what they have).

4- 1" long thin bolts with nutsfor mounting the doorbell to the casing.

Total cost of conversion-----$36.95

One more thing. If you have to drill out the doorbell holes in order to make a larger bolt fit through it, be carefull! Doorbell buttons are not made like they used to make'em. This conversion is thereby named "STablemouse" (I get to name it, because I thought of it first (I hope). Good luck!

---Matt Chandler (72667,3321 on Compuserve or "M.Chandler" on Genie). (Downloaded from GEnie)

-- P>S> You're going to like it!....

ST LIBRARY DISKS

Disk 47: ASH v0.70 (C,M)
ST GUIDE v1a (C,M)
ELIMINATION (C,M)

Disk 48: DC FORMAT v2.0x (C,M)
DL II v0.24 (C,M)
SCHIZO v1.2 (C,M)
XUTILITY v2.0/E (C,M)

Disk 49: ICON LANG v6.3 (C,M)

Disk 50: AMULTI v1.2 (C,M)

Disk 51: C COMPILER v2 (C,M)

Disk 52: TRANSFER.ACC (C,M)
WXYTR.TTP (C,M)
AUTO RUN v1.0 (C,M)
BOOT MAKER v1.0 (C,M)
EZ FORMAT v2.7 (C,M)
DCOPY v1.91 (C,M)
SET PRINT v2.3 (C,M)
SI RAMDISK (C,M)
STARTUP v1.3 (C,M)
QUIKLBL v2 (C,M)

C = color monitor M = monochrome monitor

DISK #47

ASH (A SHell) is a DOS-like command interpreter by Jerry Nowlin. It features I/O redirection, command history, recursive (9 level) shell scripts, and file attribute editing. 40K of documentation is included.

ST GUIDE (v.1a, June, 87), by Alan Fisher, is a 150K database of 1024 computer-related magazine articles (magazine, title, date and page) from the pages of Analog, Antic, Atari Explorer, Computel, Computel's ST, Consumer Reports, Current Notes, STart, ST X-Press, and ST-Log. Articles are cross-indexed by magazine title, subject, category within subject, and computer language. Searches may be performed with the included program at any of these levels or by a text string supplied by the user. This is a great complement to the MAGAZINE database provided with QUICK DB on MACC disk #39.

ELIMINATION is a shareware card game from Lanzinger Software. It is patterned after the game SLOW TORTURE. In this version you play against six computer players. Help screens and rules are built into the program. Those who register ($10) with Lanzinger by August 15 and December 31, 1987, are eligible for the two scheduled international ELIMINATION tournaments. The grand prize is - well, they don't say; but if you decide to enter, let us know.

DISK #48

DC FORMAT is a radically improved version of the extended formatter from Double Click Software. Version 2.0 includes not only the standard normal/extended track/sector, regular/fast options, but also fast format (SS and DS) and copy (with multiple option) of Magic Sac disks, SS and DS writing of IBM MS-DOS 3.2 boot sectors, and options for special ST boot sectors (including auto COMMAND shell boot, harddisk bypass, check/set time, and verify off). These latter options are not run from an auto folder, but rather from code written to your boot sector. Click on the lower right corner of the menu and two levels of help screens will be displayed. Like version 1, when used on a color monitor the screen colors are not returned to those selected prior to booting DC FORMAT (at least the colors are attractive). This is by far the most versatile formatter I have yet seen.

DL II, by Simon Poole (author of UNITERM), is a beta version of a very powerful GEM-based disk editor. Features include tools for fixing corrupted disks, displaying disk usage, checking FAT integrity, checking lost and crosslinked clusters, automatic and manual recovery (unerasing) of files, editing file attributes, editing files (sector and file-based), and editing harddrive boot sectors. REORG(anize) is a program run from within DL II which consolidates and cleans up the file organization on a disk. An improved resource file and 12K of preliminary documentation are included. Don't let the beta designation scare you; this is an incredible program!

SCHIZO, by John Ogawa, is multi-function desk accessory which replaces the control and VT52 accessory slots in addition to displaying free RAM and saving the current time and date. This version includes NEUROSIS, a program which allows you to edit the default settings of SCHIZO. 30K of documentation is included.

XUTILITY is anther multi-function desk accessory and the only PD program I know of which allows disk copies between different disk formats (e.g. TOS to extended and vice versa). Functions include display of free RAM, copying with and without format, a disk fix function, keyboard reassignment, system and extended disk formats, and a printer configuration menu which includes switches for the standard Epson foreign character sets. XUTILITY permits you to save the default configuration.

DISK #49

To quote a bit from the ~80K of accompanying documentation: "Icon is a high-level programming language with extensive facilities for processing strings and lists... Icon resembles SNOBOL4 in its emphasis on high-level string processing and a design philosophy that allows ease of programming and short, concise programs. ... Examples of the kinds of problems for which Icon is well suited are: text analysis editing and formatting, document preparation, symbolic mathematics, text generation, parsing and translation, data laundry, and graph manipulation." This version was ported to the ST by O. Rick Fonorow and Jerry D. Nowlin. With the application form on this disk you can register your copy of ICON with the ICON PROJECT at UofA and receive the Icon Newsletter, which is published "aperiodically", and be notified of corrections and updates. There is no charge for this registration.

DISK #50

AMULTI v1.2, by Fred Brooks, is a multi-tasking and multi-user kernel written in Modula-2. It has progressed through various 0.x versions which have been carefully detailed in the docs. But, though it is still a bit buggy, it does work. The distribution includes several tools designed to keep track of the installed processes. The documentation is rather technical and is more a summary than it is thorough. Included with the program is the PCOMMAND shell and BMODEM 2.3A (both with complete docs), both of which AMULTI has been adapted to be used with. Complete TDI Modula-2 source code is included.

DISK #51

This is a recent update to Mark Johnson's shareware C COMPILER. This is THE pd/shareware C compiler. Mark supports it on GEnie and he is even considering a newsletter and a Resource Construction Set. This compiler seems destined to be the "TINY C" of the ST world. The distribution includes everything you need to start editing and compiling C. The compiler is a preprocessor, parser, and code generator all rolled into a single program and the single pass assembler has a switch to generate a standard Atari symbol table. The disk also includes several compiled tools with source code, such as a UNIX-style make utility, a crash analyzer, BUG, and the string search utility, GREP. A public domain MicroEmacs text editor is supplied for editing code. The library routines include source code and the GEM library includes all the VDI and AES routines from the Abacus books. So, what do we have -- a free, full-featured, perfect C compiler? Come on! -- you can spend $200 for a language and not come close to perfect and full-featured. So, to satisfy the nags -- the main limitations are the lack of the type specifiers float, double, and auto, as well as goto/labels. Also, the docs indicate that support for GEM (.PRG) programs is not completely debugged. In other words, it's not much different than the initial release of a typical commercial compiler.

DISK #52

TRANSFER and WXYTR, by Thomas Zerucha, are W/Xmodem/Ymodem/Ymodem1K batch transfer utilities in accessory and TTP form. Option switches include transmit, receive, batch or single file, normal Ymodem, FoReM ST Ymodem, forced CRC, forced checksum, PC Pursuit and 300 baud acceleration, check for WXmodem, and debug (display tranfer progress). Included also is SERINI, an auto folder program to expand the ST's I/O buffers to make more efficient use of the CPU when used for Ymodem transfer or in multi-tasking environments.

AUTO BOOT and BOOT MAKER are programs which allow you to autoboot GEM programs. For those new to the ST, it is possible to make a program with a .TOS extension run automatically when you turn your computer on by changing the .TOS extension to .PRG, creating a folder named AUTO, and placing the program in that AUTO folder. This works only with TOS programs and not with GEM programs (those programs which have a .PRG extension and use the mouse and windows). AUTO RUN, by Peter Beery, is public domain accessory with C source code which permits autobooting of most GEM programs. This is

ST LIBRARY DISKS
(continued from page 5)

the program which he is using to autoboot the new version of the game ORION'S RUN. Documentation is included at the top of the source code. BOOT MAKER creates an autoboot short program (which you place in an autofolder) containing the path name of the GEM program. The path name is specified by simply selecting the GEM program from a GEM menu selector.

EZ FORMAT, by George Miller, is yet another disk format accessory. This one has options for 9-10 sectors and 80-83 tracks. That's a maximum of 819K on a DS disk. It also speeds up the format by turning off the verify function.

DCOPY 1.91, by Ralph Walden, first appeared on disk #31 (v1.7), and again on disk #37 (v1.82). This version adds an alternate menu including hex dump, text file append, change screen colors, restore screen colors, kill screen (until a key is hit), and more archive options (delete, freshen, update, test). There is also a new string handler which increases type and display output. There are still more features, but if the above features haven't sold you... About 40K of documentation is included.

SET PRINT (former versions were called CR8CMD), by Michael Albo, is a GEM-based printer utility specifically designed for the Panasonic KX-P109X series, 1091, and most Epson compatibles. Switches include pica, elite, proportional, compressed, double width, sub/super script, italic, underline, nlq, emphasized, line spacing (1/8, 7/72, 1/6) IBM-PC graphic sets 1 and 2, and send to printer or file.

SI RAMDISK, from the folks at ST Informer, is a desk accessory which permits you to install and remove a ramdisk and printer spooler (throuput = 2000 cps) of arbitrary sizes. Another feature is the ability to specify files or complete directories to be transferred to the ramdisk upon booting. These pathnames, ramdisk and spooler parameters are saved in a configuration file.

STARTUP 1.3 is an improved version of the versatile boot configuration script language. This program permits you to selectively boot accessories, select from multiple DESKTOP.INF files, boot personalized pictures, test variables with standard Boolean operators, and much more, by a user-customized script file read from the auto folder. New features in this version are labels and branching, disk verify on/off, desk color reset, and selective accessory booting.

QUIKLBL is a simple, GEM-based, four line label printer, by David Lindsley. Options include normal, wide, tall, condensed, italic, and bold. The option for tall print seems buggy on my LQ but will probably work alright on 9-pin Epsons. In any event, the Pascal source code is included.

Whew, I think that's enough for this month.

-- ROBERT FORSTER, 16-bit Librarian

IT SURE WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MORE ARTICLES TO JUGGLE AROUND NEXT MONTH. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES -- BOTH GOOD AND BAD -- WITH US. WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND GET YOUR NAME IN PRINT. YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY--TO LEARN FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES. ANY FORMAT IS OK--

THANKS-- Roger

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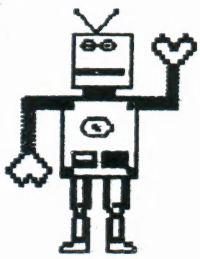

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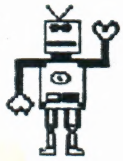

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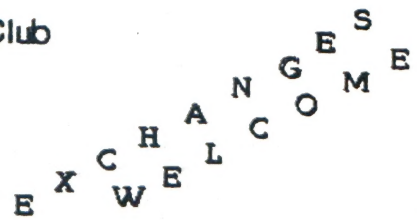

Vol 5 Issue 2
August 1987

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS :
Disk Library (now has 8 5 disks)
Discount purchases at various area vendors
Support from other ATARI users
A monthly Newsletter
S T SIG plus ST Library Disks
ATARI User Group Support

(PLEASE NOTE)
Items for print in the newsletter must be submitted 14 days before the next meeting
(handwritten copy okay if legible)

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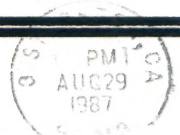
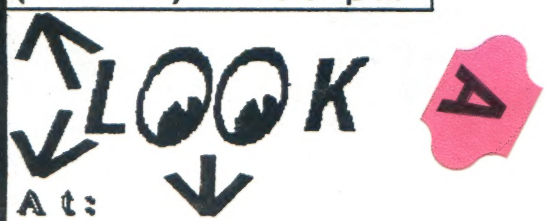


Our next Meeting:
August 13, 1987
(Thurs.) 7:00 pm



At:
Modesto Community Service Center Auditorium
800 E. Morris Ave.
(Just east of Sunrise)

TO:

J.A.C.G. Newsletter
c/o R.P. Mulhearn Jr.
8 Cresent Rd.
Pine Brook NJ 07058